PEACE NEWS

No. 975 March 4, 1955 4d. (U.S. Air Express Edition: 10 cts.)

Registered as a newspaper.
Entered as second-class matter at post office, Boston, Mass., USA.

NEW STRUGGLE TO STOP CALL-UP IN U.S.

Would increase war risk

PEACE NEWS CORRESPONDENT

EFFORTS to stop peacetime conscription are sweeping the United States in a new campaign launched by the Friends Committee of National Legislation (Quakers) and the National Council Against Conscription, and supported by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

This is the immediate result of two proposals before the House of Representatives which called for an extension for another four years of the present Universal Military Training and Service Act, and the adopting of a supplementary "Reserve" system.

"Army would be too big"

It is difficult to see the reasoning behind this move for increasing the size of the present Armed Forces. In the Chicago Herald, December 18, 1954, America was told,

> "The Army will still be too big when they get it down to about a million men as present plans seem to contemplate. Some of the questions asked of the President contained the assumption that an army of a million men would not be big enough to deal with little non-atomic wars. We should suppose that out of a good deal less than a million it ought to be possible to squeeze a few hundred thousand for a little war to add to the 200,000 Marines who are organised for precisely this kind of duty."

History gives the lie to compulsory service acting as either a deterrent to war or a method of ensuring victory. Amongst the countries who have borne witness of this, have been France, Germany, Italy and Poland. Surely, if military conscription were a good formula for peace, Europe would be the most peaceful area in the world!

Lesson of Indo-China

Conscription causes nations to fear and be suspicious, and where fear and these suspicions lurk, there can be no real basis for peace. It was India, with no aspirations to military strength, who intervened in the Korean war.

Says the National Council Against Conscription's Factfolder 1, "One of the major reasons for our non-involvement in Indo-China was General Ridgeway's conviction that the army was not large enough to risk such involvement. Had the army also had available the proposed 3 million man reserve, it is quite possible that President Eisenhower would have yielded to the counsel of the other Chiefs of Staff and in doing so involved the country in a major war.

"There is no safety in peacetime conscription, but there is a great deal of danger."



WALKING FROM SALISBURY TO LONDON

MRS. MARY HARRISON, 48-year-old wife of a Redlynch, Wilts., builder, set off from Salisbury market place at 8.30 on Monday morning to walk to London as an act of protest against the government's decision to manufacture the H-bomb. She plans to arrive in London on Saturday.

In London a call has been made for volunteers to meet Mary Harrison on her arrival tomorrow (Saturday) and to march with her carrying posters and distributing leaflets.

The Peace Pledge Union asks those able to do so to gather at Kew Bridge at 10.30 a.m.; Hammersmith Broadway 1.30 p.m.; or at Trafalgar Square 3.30 p.m. (See Diary, page 5, for full details).

Mrs. Harrison is wearing a canvas painted banner and travelling via Romsey, Winchester, Alresford, Guildford and Kingston. On the way she is distributing Peace Pledge Union leaflets and telling those who are interested why she is making the protest. Friends are providing accommodation for her overnight stops.

She told a Peace News reporter, "When I heard that the H-bomb was to be produced in this country and would be set off if thought necessary I realised that letters to the press and speeches were not enough. It is so easy to push this unpleasant matter out of one's mind and the main reason I am making this walk to London is to ensure that I do not forget. Secondly I am acting on behalf of the ordinary folk who feel the same as I do but can do nothing about it. But the walk itself is nothing. We must back it up by living good lives in our own neighbourhoods. That is the best way to stopping the manufacture of these bombs."

☐ ON BACK PAGE

PUBLIC OPINION RISING AGAINST H-BOMB

"The only choice: Pacifism or total war"

In London, next Thursday, a big public meeting at Friends House, Euston, will voice the determination of those who wish to see Britain renounce the use of the H-bomb. The speakers include two MPs, Emrys Hughes, and Victor Yates; a writer, Miss Vera Brittain; a scientist, Dr. Alex Comfort; a Quaker, John Hoyland; a Congregationalist, Rev. Claud Coltman; and an Anglican, Canon T. B. Scrutton.

THE Press of Britain is being subjected to a barrage of correspondence from a public which has had its conscience aroused by the Government's decision to manufacture the H-bomb.

This protest through the Press is being backed up by statements by Churchmen, Trade Unionists and by resolutions from political groups and other bodies.

So great was the volume of protest against the News Chronicle's leading article "Peace Through Strength" which appeared on the day the decision to make the H-bomb was announced, that the paper took the unusual step of publishing a "soft-pedalling" leader four days later, this time entitled "Time of Doubt."

Great exception was taken to the News Chronicle's statement "When the Government says that most of us would rather face the threat of physical devastation than humble ourselves before militant Communism, we believe it is right."

The News Chronicle acknowledged that most of its correspondents disagreed with this view.

It published, among others, a letter from William Glynne-Jones who wrote:

"I would like it to be made known that although I am not a Communist I have no wish to be included in 'the most of us.' Could life under Communism for me be worse than the prospect of total annihilation or survival as a victim of radio-activity."

To the News Chronicle's declaration in its second leader that the manufacture of the H-bomb was justified because "We cannot believe that Christianity can be served by yielding to the powers of anti-Christ," A. John Lawton of Nottingham replied:

"Because I also believe that, I utterly disagree with your position about the H-bomb and rearmament. To be ready, if need be, to bring about the massacre and mutilation of millions of men, women and children cannot possibly be in the spirit of Christ. Evil—and mass destruction is evil—is always anti-Christ whoever practises it.

Now the News Chronicle has announced that it will publish a series of articles next week discussing the H-bomb issue, contributed by Dr. Soper, Aneurin Bevan and Lord Hailsham.

"Mass destruction is evil"

In the Manchester Guardian, the Christian outlook was voiced on February 28 by a group of Methodist Ministers from the Manchester, Salford, Oldham district: John Banks, Archie Bradford, George W. Dolsey, Donald Douglas, Brian A. Greet, Francis H. Kelly, Howard M. Pearson, C. Raymond Smith, John Stacey and Harry Warne.

They wrote:

—In 1940 a prominent churchman said: "If war ever degenerates into the wilful slaughter of the innocent, Christians must either become pacifists or give up their religion." The announcement by the British Government that this country is to manufacture thermo-nuclear weapons brings this issue to a climax.

Christians must be honest with themselves. To manufacture, use, or threaten to use these terrible weapsons even as a deterrent is blasphemy against the creative law of God and against the image of God in those against whom it may be used; to agree to it is to reject Christ's way of sacrificial love and accept a species of sub-Christianity. It is, indeed, to prefer Herod (who, according to tradition, thought it expedient to slay infants) to Christ.

The position of those Christian non-pacifists and half-pacifists who think that war can be waged with rules (i.e. without atomic and thermo-nuclear weapons) is now untenable because

(i) There would be no rules in a future world war. According to British military leaders the West would probably use atomic bombs in the event of war;

● On back page



★

A United Nations soldier takes a prisoner during the Korean war. The official caption says that he is making the prisoner crawl along the road to avoid the risk of a surprise attack.

★

THE PRISONERS IN KOREA

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

A number of sickening happenings are recounted in the War Department's publication "The Treatment of British Prisoners of War in Korea" (H.M. Stationery Office, 1s.). The preparation and issue of this publication is, however, in itself a very nauseating action. Whatever may be its effect on British public opinion, in the rest of the world it will have an adverse effect on the estimate of the British capacity for fair dealing—although the limited character of the report is likely to be approved in the USA.

As its title indicates this pamphlet is not concerned to take an all-round view of the treatment of prisoners in the Korean war. It has not, for instance, to concern itself with the various happenings on Koje, the island on which UN held its North Korean and Chinese prisoners.

The booklet is just the highly tendentious formulation of charges by one belligerent against another and has no higher validity than this would suggest. Indeed it has not even this degree of validity, for it is obvious that the War Department is not a suitable body to conduct an enquiry of this kind and the report is completely anonymous.

It does not give the names of any of the prisoners concerned so that there is no possibility of the statements in the report

* On back page

UNITED

H-BOMB PROTEST MEETING

Friends House, Euston Road

Thurs., March 10 at 7.30 p.m.

Vera Brittain, Emrys Hughes, M.P. Victor Yates, M.P., John Hoyland, Rev. Claud Coltman, Alex Comfort, Canon T. B. Scrutton

CHAIRMAN: SYBIL MORRISON

Organised by the Standing Joint Pacifist Committee for: The Peace Pledge Union, The Fellowship of Reconciliation, The Peace Committee of the Society of Friends, and The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

March 4th 1955

PEACE NEWS

3 BLACKSTOCK ROAD, LONDON, N.4
Tel: STAmford Hill 2262 (three lines)
U.S. Office: C/o AFSC, 130 Brattle St. Cambridge 38, Mass.

We have staked our security, our ability to survive on freedom of the mind and the conscience. So spoke Jefferson, Hamilton and Madison. So say the great majority of us today. —William O. Douglas.

The lights going out

TO those old enough to have lived in a period when the desirability of maintaining generous standards of free discussion was taken for granted, the present tendency to supp ess that which is disapproved of must be regarded as one of the most disquieting phenomena of the present day (We do not wish to exaggerate its relative seriousness. The hydrogen-bomb war to which the world is now so obviously moving may bring an end to it as it will bring an end to so much else).

The tendency to suppress is manifesting itself in smaller things as well as big, by corporations and governments. Two minor instances were referred to on this page last week. There was the refusal of the Associated Press to provide us with a copy of a photograph of the unfortunate Aikichi Kuboyama because of their fear of how Washington would regard the rendering of this quite normal press service to Peace News. Then there was the silly repressive fussiness of British Railways regarding the way in which a TV "report" on the railways was to be rendered and its consequent suppression.

Since then we have learned that the Vatican, which some time ago made it impossible for the "worker-priests" of France to continue their inspiring activities, has now put upon Catholics a prohibition against reading La Quinzaine. This Catholic journal in which we found much with which we disagreed, but which was finely fulfilling a useful purpose in maintaining political discussion among Catholics (as Le Figaro does incidentally,but with what may be described as "Left" views—as far as such terms have any value today—while Le Figaro expresses "Right" views) has had to close down as a consequence.

★ ★

More serious than these things, of course, is the attitude of the US Government in the action we reported last week in intercepting in the mails and burning considerable masses of printed matter. Most of this is material from Communist-governed countries, of course, but by no means all, as we have very good reason to know.

Let it be admitted straight away that there is an even more repressive attitude in Russia of views at variance with those of the government. Nevertheless, what is happening in the USA is much graver and much more threatening than what is happening in Russia. For the Russian people have never known democracy and have never had experience of political freedom. If it was possible for different political groups under Czarism to find more opportunity of expressing themselves it was simply because the Czarist Government was less efficient in suppression.

America is turning away from liberties that had already been realised—substituting suppression for freedom, a portent of much greater menace.

The extension of this American censorship from Communist publications to others such as the Movement for Colonial Freedom, the Union of Democratic Control and ourselves makes this development of even greater gravity; for this means more than a hatred of Communism. It means a shutting out from the knowledge of the American people of views in the rest of the world that do not square with US Governmental policy.

The operation of this kind of censorship must notoriously be done largely by political illiterates; it is only these that can be regarded as sufficiently "safe" for the job. Even so it must have been apparent that the two Peace News pamphlets that have been destroyed—both "Third Way" pamphlets—were not expressing Communist views.

On page three of "The Third Camp" by John Banks, for instance, there is the following:

"The USSR, if not guilty since 1945 of direct aggression, has certainly assisted the aggressive expansion of Communist power outside its borders by coup-d'etat and civil war. Czechoslovakia, China and Korea were bound to lead to violent American reactions, and we must not let our detestation of Chiang Kai-shek or Syngman Rhee blind us to this."

In A. J. Muste's pamphlet "The Camp of Liberation" the writer deprecates the view that "since the United States can hardly be regarded as peaceful today, Russia, as well as China, must be! Surely this is as unrealistic, as devoid of scientific objectivity, as the idea held by many Americans that Russia is belligerent and the United States has none but the most peaceful and benevolent intentions."

It is clear that no Communist could permit himself to write in the terms of these two passages. The US Government is using, here as in many other connections, the fear of Communism as a means to the destruction of independent thought. To those who value freedom there is becoming less and less to choose between Russia and the USA.

The Disarmament Talks

THE United Nations Sub-committee on Disarmament resumed its meetings at Lancaster House, London, last Friday, February 25, and met again on Tuesday.

The Committee consists of representatives of Britain, France, the US, Russia and Canada. The Russian representative Mr. Gromyko, Deputy Foreign Minister, is accused of having "leaked" the proposal that he was presenting to the Committee to the Daily Worker. It was not much of a leak, however, for Moscow Radio had broadcast these proposals a week before, which, it was suggested, should be dealt with by a World Disarmament Conference; and, in fact, we had already heard them some months ago.

They were for an agreement on the destruction of all nuclear weapons and the limitation of arms, forces and defence budgets at the level of January 1, 1955. The difficulty about such proposals is that it is obvious that those in the West who equally with the Russians think in militaristic terms, cannot be expected to accept them; those who do not think in militaristic terms perceive the chance of safety for the world in an approach to disarmament that does not regard the Disarmament Conference or Committee as an annex to the battlefield, in which each side seeks to put the other at a military disadvantage. These would take unilateral action in an endeavour to replace the politics of power by the politics of trust.

The field in which the Disarmament Committee may be able to make progress, if progress is possible at all on the militaristic assumptions on which it works, is by defining and securing agreement upon the means to international control and inspection; but the provision of the means to such control is becoming increasingly difficult, and mankind will probably have a better chance of coming through the present dangers if it loses its illusions on the subject.

A question of timing

A CORRESPONDENT elsewhere in this issue comments on the government's booklet on the treatment of prisoners by the North Koreans and Chinese.

A question that must arise in many minds, however, is why was the present moment chosen for publication. It is obvious that it has not taken all this time to assemble the accounts that are given in the booklet, and it is clear that it has not been compiled on the basis of laborious judicial procedures.

It has been suggested that it has been published now to rouse feeling against the Chinese. We do not believe that this is the explanation. We believe the Government shares the general concern regarding the possible consequences of the American policy in regard to China, and that it has no disposition to seek to arouse anti-Chinese feeling as such.

We are inclined rather to the view that the publication has been timed to coincide with the British decision to manufacture the H-bomb. The best specific for deflecting attention from atrocious actions that one is contemplating oneself is to allege atrocities that have been committeed by some other fellow.

Endorsement by the Bundestag

Another stage toward the rearmament of Germany has been achieved in the endorsement by the West German Bundestag of the Paris agreements.

The matter is not, of course, yet decided. The agreements have still to be endorsed by the Bundesrat, where the Saar Agreement is expected to meet with further resistance, and the qualified manner in which it has been given endorsement by the Bundestag may produce repercussions in France.

The heavy weather that the project has encountered (the signing of the EDC treaties took place in 1952) will by no means come to an end when the agreements have been fully ratified. Then will come the real tug-o-war. There is not only Social Democratic opposition to the remilitarisation of Germany; there is even more formidable antagonism among **trade unionists,** and much resistance is manifested among German youth.

This has led to the scaling-down of the plans for remilitarisation formerly announced by Herr Blank, the "Defence" Commissioner. Whereas he was previously aiming at the creation of a German force of 500,000 men in two years, he now plans to have training cadres ready in three years, while it will take a further two years for the completion of the training of a conscript army.

This revised schedule of military advance provides plenty of opportunity for negotiations with East Germany and Russia, and we have little doubt that when once West Germany has recovered her sovereignty such negotiations will take place. They may lead to results that are little to the liking of the US Government and its European auxiliaries. The least desirable, but by no means inconceivable, outcome is a military alliance between Russia and a united Germany; the best may be an agreement on a neutralised united Germany. The least probable result, we believe, is that which Mr. Dulles has been working for.

BEHIND THE NEWS

In East Germany

ARRANGEMENTS to meet the new situation in Germany following the completed ratification of the agreements are of course in progress in East Germany. The "People's Police Force" (a para-military organisation) consisted last year of 110,000 men.

By the end of April it is expected to number 135,000. This increase will enable the force to be maintained at its previous strength, while 25,000 officers and men can be detached for the training of conscripts. After the ratification of the Paris Agreements the conscription of East German youth will go forward. The aim will be to have 300,000 men under arms by the end of 1956.

If this aim is achieved it will be observed that the West German military programme will be outstripped.

There is a curious differentiation to be applied in the operation of the East German conscription law. West Germans who move into East Germany are to be exempt from conscripted service. There is, of course, a rather similar anomaly in regard to conscription for the United Kingdom, in which the Northern Irish are not subject to conscription. The application of the National Service Act to the young Northern Irishman might encourage his defection to Southern Ireland.

There has so far been no indication that there will be any provision for conscientious objection to military service in the conscription law for East Germany. It has, of course, been already indicated that there will be provision of some sort in West Germany.

Should there be contrasting practice in the two parts of Germany it will provide a rather striking example of the difference in approach as between the totalitarian states and those that are able to maintain some standards, however defective, of liberal democracy.

Party discipline . . .

MR. BEVAN'S motion calling for immediate talks with Russia in advance of German rearmament which secured 113 signatures drew from the Parliamentary Labour Party a declaration of regret that such a motion should be tabled.

The contrast between the expulsion of the six MPs who voted against the endorsement of the Paris agreements is striking. Defiance by six produced expulsion. Defiance by 113 produces a wary expression of regret.

The six, however, have now made their peace with the Party: "Written assurances have been given in each case that in future they will abide by the constitution and standing orders of the Parliamentary Labour Party?

We do not know whether there is any unwritten understanding accompanying these written assurances, but taking the official statement at its face value it can only mean that a very serious situation now arises for pacifists in the Labour Party and that it is evident that they will have to reconsider their position.

The official Labour Party attitude at the end of the debate on the London-Paris agreements was that abstention was the only way to line up the Party as a united body behind the rearmament of Germany, an issue upon which there was much dissension in the Labour Party. Letting the matter go through withput a vote was a procedure that could have been represented as general support. The only way in which opposition could be made effective was by putting down the motion for rejection, which the six did.

At the time of the debate Mr. James Hudson, a lifelong pacifist who did not vote with the six, stated the position as he saw it (a position which the six have now presumably agreed to accept): that those in the Parliamentary Labour Party had agreed at the outset to abide by the standing orders, which do not permit voting in a sense opposite to the decision of the Party, but admit of abstentions on a limited number of issues. Mr. Hudson held therefore that he was not entitled on this matter to vote in accordance with his personal conviction.

. . . and Genocide

NOW we do not think it is possible to quarrel with this view, and if the six now accept Party membership on these terms they will be unable to ignore the standing orders when issues arise relating to NATO, European "defence" measures, the US air bases in this country, and—in view of the Labour Party declaration on the matter—the British manufacture of the hydrogen-bomb.

Can those who seriously endorse the pacifist view accept these terms? In the past there was an understandable case for balancing the armaments issue against the claims of unity on measures for social advancement and other issues. Today in the face of the new threat to the world, there is no such case.

The moral issue involved in willingness to prepare and use atom and hydrogen bombs is not to be evaded. Pacifists —and those who, like Mr. Beswick and Mr. Royle, see the final challenge to humanity in a willingness to resort to genocide as a war measure—must find a way to bring this matter before the electorate; inside their Party should that be possible, but in opposition to their Party if not.

Only ten years ago

ARP is likely to become a permanent peacetime institution. The question is one that the Cabinet is considering with other post-war plans like conscription.

No decision has been reached so far, but most members of the Government are believed to favour continuation.

Already ARP instructors are being sounded to see if they are willing to continue after the war. It is probable that there will be compulsory training for everybody who is eligible.

—Evening News, March 2, 1945.

That dreary H-bomb argument

Letter from U.S.A. by A. J. Muste

I AM in the midst of preparations for a month's trip to Western Europe as this is written, and shall therefore be more brief, perhaps, than I have been in recent issues. I suppose, if all goes according to schedule, I shall be in London by the time this issue reaches its readers.

One of the things that I shall want to observe at first hand in Europe is the reaction to the announcement made by the British government the other day that it had the "ability" to produce the H-bomb and would do so!

Many of us recall the revulsion in Great Britain when the radioactive ash fell on the Japanese fishermen last March. What are the British people saying and doing now about the government's announcement?

So far our press has given no indication that any widespread protest is being made. Will such protest be forthcoming? We hope so. If it occurs, this will certainly help us over here.

On the other hand, if the British people who almost certainly stand to be annihilated in an H-bomb war, acquiesce in their government's decision to join the H-bomb race, I fear a good many ordinary citizens over here, who have been greatly disturbed recently by reports of scientists about possible long term effects of radiation, will shrug their shoulders and say: "Why should *we* worry if *they* don't."

How drearily familiar the argument has become, which the Churchill government now repeats, that the development and production of the H-bomb is really the main deterrent to war! It "increases the chances of world peace far more than the chance of world war," are the exact words, I believe. In the meantime the governments pile up the bombs with which —just in case—to win the war in which nobody can win.

The philosophy of the whole mad business never has been, and I surmise never will be put more more clearly than by the American general a few years ago who in the course of an argument banged the table and bellowed:

"We have got to prevent the next war *and* we have got to win it."

However, a academic formulation has just been provided in the February 1955 issue of our Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists by Prof. Hans Thirring, director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics, Vienna.

The professor and the bomb

Thirring's article is entitled "Can We Sleep Soundly in the Shadow of the Hydrogen Bomb?" His answer is yes! With all the major powers presently armed with H-bombs everybody will be deterred from an aggressive move against anybody. The distinguished physicist makes it sound fairly plausible for a while. He thinks we can count on governments exercising ordinary common sense in the situation. "All incentive for a war of aggression has been eliminated," he states, just like that.

But paradoxically, he does not leave it at that. He argues that we must define what an aggressor is, and this, he assures us, is quite simple, though I dimly recall that interminable hours have been spent by governments and by political scientists debating the point. An aggressor is "he, and only he, who first executes military operations outside his own boundaries."

Far more significant than Prof. Thirring's self-assurance about being able to provide this definition, however, is the fact that he evidently still thinks aggression well may occur, though he has just got through arguing that it is inconceivable that any government will now start a war which means annihilation for itself as well as the adversary!

Now what, then, if aggression does occur? Why, then "an annihilating counter-blow would be delivered" by all powers who will recognize this as an act "which has previously been defined and announced as clearly an act of aggression!" Having provided for devastating *and suicidal* reprisal against an act which no one would undertake *because* it was suicidal, the professor still concludes on a cheerful though considerably more moderate note, put in appropriately academic verbiage:

"This"—i.e. collective security—"with destructive weapons of incomparable power ready at hand, will so greatly *reduce* the danger of war"—which, remember, he had completely eliminated a moment ago—"that we shall once again be able *gradually* to surmount the psychosis of anxiety and distrust characteristic of our age"—just because it is concentrating on "destructive weapons of incomparable power."

It is appropriate to end this discussion with what probably represents what the Indian reaction to all this may be. C. L. Sultzberger, one of the New York Times crack correspondents quotes C. P. Deshmukh, Indian Minister of Finance, as concluding a discussion of how Indians and Americans tend to misunderstand each other about China, Communism and other matters with this statement:

"You are helping colonialism"

"We don't misunderstand your motives, but you *are* helping colonialism—just as you are helping Communism by our actions. There are differences of opinion in our attitudes. You feel we are walking into the spider's parlour. We feel you are wrong in the assumption that military power is needed to negotiate with Communism. We remember that you considered atomic intervention at Dien Bien Phu even though that was cancelled. We fear that another time it may occur and that the same thing may happen to us, as the result of a distant explosion, as happened to the Japanese fishermen near Eniwetok. After all, too many people live in this part of the world."

Indian to preside at Atomic Energy conference

DR. HOMI BHABHA, Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, will be President of the United Nations conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, scheduled to open in Geneva on August 8, 1955.

Dr. Bhabha's appointment was made public at UN Headquarters at the same time as the agenda for the conference, which showed that the international scientists attending it will discuss a wide field of subjects, covering almost all aspects of "atoms for peace" and ranging from the world's power needs in the year 2000 to the use of atomic energy in everyday medicine, biology and industry.



MR. BUNCHE

Professor Walter G. Whitman, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be Secretary-General of the conference. In this capacity, Professor Whitman will serve as an officer of the UN Secretariat, and he will be assisted by a three-man UN Working Party consisting of UN Under-Secretaries Ralph J. Bunche and Ilya S. Tchernychev, and Dr. Gunnar Randers, Norwegian atomic scientist who was appointed in December as special consultant to Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, in matters relating to the conference.



Mr. TCHERNYCHEV

The extensive and highly technical agenda shows that after a keynote address by Dr. Bhabha, the conference will open by considering the world's estimated power requirements in some 50 years time. This, it states, is necessary "in order to set the stage for discussion of the effect of nuclear energy on the world power problem."

An annex to the agenda shows that the only government which has so far announced its intention of submitting a specific paper is the Soviet Union. As previously announced in Moscow, the paper will discuss: "The USSR's First Atomic Power Plant for Industrial Purposes and Methods of Developing Atomic Power."

Dr. L. P. JACKS

DR. L. P. JACKS has died at the age of 94, and for some of us there is a great gap in the structure of our world which can never be filled.

To say he was a Unitarian Minister, the founder of the Hibbert Journal and the Principal of Manchester College is to say almost nothing. He was a great humanitarian, a great preacher and scholar, and most important of all, a truly good man with a gift of imparting to others not only his own knowledge, but something of his own great spirit.

He was a believer in the League of Nations but not in its Covenant, and though he always declared he was not a pacifist, his book CO-OPERATION OR COERCION, in which he examines the Covenant, and ends with the exhortation "Let the League pursue its mission and go about its business *unarmed*," is still of immense value to all who believe in internationalism.

In his last book, NEAR THE BRINK, published in 1952 his freshness of approach seemed undimmed by his ninety years, and his words of wisdom, clothed in the purity of his easy prose, as intelligible and readable as those he spoke and wrote as a young man sixty years ago.

These works must live, as surely as the trumpets must have sounded for him on the other side.

SYBIL MORRISON.

THE FORTY DAYS

THE total for the Peace Pledge Union's Headquarters Fund for the first two months of 1955 amounts to £130; £38 less than it should be if we are to maintain our monthly average over the whole year.

I hope that we shall not drop any further behind and that, by the end of March, we shall have caught up and be able to record not less than £250. And this is a good time of the year for a special effort.

The days between Ash Wednesday and Easter have always been regarded by Christians as a time for a special effort of self-denial. But self-denial is by no means confined to Christians. That is why I want to suggest that all pacifists should make their own use of the forty days which are being observed by so many people all the world over. Few of us will find that we cannot give up something. Certainly if we are smokers, sweet eaters, theatre or cinema goers there is an obvious way in which we can find some extra money for the cause of pacifism.

Will each one who reads this appeal please decide to spend less on some of the non-essentials between now and Easter, and give what is saved to the work of the PPU. Buy a book of stamps instead of a packet of cigarettes or half a pound of sweets, a postal order instead of a theatre or cinema ticket, and send it along to the Peace Pledge Union's Headquarters Fund.

STUART MORRIS,
General Secretary.

Our aim for the year: £1,000
Monthly average: £84
Amount received to date: £130.

Donations to the Peace Pledge Union should be sent marked "Headquarters Fund," to the PPU Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

OBJECTORS TRIPPED ON THEOLOGY

All he knew was: "I'll go to prison rather than kill"

PEACE NEWS REPORTER

OF the 16 youths who appeared before Sir Gerald Hargreaves at Fulham Tribunal for Conscientious Objectors on February 18, one only, D. Moore of Peckham, was granted full exemption.

Asked what he would do if someone attacked his mother, he replied, "I would protect my mother, of course, but I would not hurt anyone."

Giving support to the claim for exemption, a witness said that Moore had had concussion as a child, and still suffered as a result of this. During a previous appearance before the tribunal he had fainted and been unfit to continue with the application.

Sir Gerald Hargreaves said that it was apparent that the boy was trying to grapple with the subject to the best of his ability, and he was satisfied that Moore was sincere.

Result of politics

Conditional exemption was granted to David R. Stoner, who quoted that vengeance does not belong to man but to God, and gave, as an example of pacifism, Christ submitting himself to Roman power.

Asked if he would object to non-combatant duties, Stoner replied that this would still be a part of an organisation whose object was fighting. He added that he kept apart from politics.

Said Sir Gerald: "The Army is supposed to keep out of politics."

Retaliated Stoner: Yes, but it is a result of politics!"

In granting conditional exemption, Sir Gerald Hargreaves said that the Tribunal was satisfied about combatant duties, "but the other question is a little more troublesome."

V. H. P. Beagley of Penge, based his objection to military service on the grounds of freedom of the individual. It was dismissed almost instantaneously.

Rodney Maunder, a factory worker stated that he could not disclose the nature of his present work, but his firm was English Electric.

"War work", said Tudor Davies drily.

Maunder attested that although this was true, he had to earn money some way, and his work was not the manufacture of weapons.

The application was dismissed.

Not under military

A male nurse, J. Hayden, based his objection to serving with the forces on the Sermon on the Mount.

He was asked whether he knew the teaching of Christ with reference to defending the weak.

"The Bible's teaching," answered Hayden, "does not permit the taking-up of arms. I would help a weaker person but not under military authority."

"You cannot prove your first statement one way or the other," challenged Tudor Davies. "That is your own private opinion."

Hayden was then asked to give his views on the truth of the Old Testament. "If God instructed the people to go to war—then can fighting be an evil thing?" he was asked.

With beliefs based solely upon the teachings of the New Testament, Hayden floundered, so that Sir Gerald Hargreaves announced that the Tribunal felt that the applicant had been unable to reconcile the two Testaments, and his application was dismissed.

R. G. Trollope based his conscientious objection on the study of international events. He was warned that exemption could only be given on grounds of conscience, to those who had studied whether things were morally right or morally wrong.

Trollope said that he would be doing all he could to prevent further wars in his future capacity as an Art teacher. He would teach the beauty of living, and the greatness of life.

"I have read the case against pacifism, and I still adhere to these views," he said.

In a letter to the Court, his tutor wrote, "His views have been arrived at after much thought."

Trollope was not placed on the register of COs.

F. C. Marshall of Wood Green believed that he would be exempt in any case, but he wished to make his stand. In a clear voice, he attested, "I despise war. I am not a Communist. I am a member of the Church of England. My objection is based on religious grounds. I can see no justification for killing a person."

Enlarging on this theme, he said, "If Mr. Eden has a row and war breaks out, then millions who do not have a say in the matter have to kill or be killed. I am commanded, 'Thou shalt not kill.'"

"'Love thy neighbour'. 'Love they God'. 'Thou shalt not kill'," quoted Tudor Davies. "It is a question of priority. Which do you put first?"

A volley of questions from the bench flummoxed the applicant, so that he was unable to answer this question, or any other for some seconds.

"You object to killing?" asked the Tribunal.

"Yes, sir," answered the youth.

"Are you a vegetarian?"

"No."

A satisfied "Ah" rose from the bench.

The Thirty-Nine Articles

When Marshall claimed that there was no case against Christian pacifism, he was told, "Oh—come, come. You're an intelligent person. You should know that there are many Christians who believe that there are grounds for taking up arms."

Marshall was again tripped with questions on the Thirty-Nine articles of the Church of England. Summing up, Sir Gerald Hargreaves said, "The Applicant has not done enough about it. He has not reconciled the Old Testament with the New. He should know more about it, and discuss the matter with people of opposing views."

The Peace Pledge Union pledge featured in the statement of an accounts clerk, Leonard Graham, who said that he did not belong to any movement, but based his conscientious objection on humanitarian grounds. Called as a witness, Sydney Graham said, "My brother is against taking life. He says his conscience will not allow him to do it. He has been a good influence on his friends, and also on myself with his ideas on non-violence."

Graham's application followed the trend of the day—it was dismissed.

Because you are a Christian . . .

Another youth who suffered similar treatment was Andrew Cowper, a laboratory assistant, who was told by Sir Gerald,

"It is possible to apply the Sermon on the Mount to personal matters, but not easy to apply them to international affairs. You take it for granted that because you are a Christian you are also a pacifist. You assume that Christianity and pacifism mean the same thing. And they don't."

The application of Daniel Elding, a cowman, was also dismissed. Elding maintained that many go to the forces because they are frightened of what people will say if they don't. He couldn't say what took Padres into the military. His minister was a pacifist, the Rev. Gordon P. Smailes of the Congregational Church near Arborfield. He had a good insight into the other side of the question because his brothers were in the army, and Arborfield camp was nearby.

The bench told Elding that sometimes it was necessary to kill in order to prevent others from being killed, and they believed that he had not studied the question sufficiently.

After the Tribunal, Elding told Peace News, "One wrong makes one right . . . to them, but I'm a simple person to whom one wrong never made one right. I would probably be exempt in any case, but I must say what I feel." He added, "I am opposed in my views by many, even my wife, but I'll go to prison rather than kill."

The courage of Elding, and all those who face the experienced men of the Tribunal may never be acknowledged with investitures or decorations, but it should be acknowledged and supported by those sharing the same views.

A lone stand

These youths stand alone, having faced the ordeal of dissension at home, and the mockery of military companions. Few have witnesses or letters to help their case. Even fewer have relatives or friends in the gallery.

None of them can be expected at the age of 17 to have the wisdom and logic that age and experience has brought to those who assume to judge their consciences.

These youths stand at an inferior level to the five seated men, who have been through it all so many itmes that they know every loophole and facet of an argument.

Doris Wheeler, reporting for the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors, said, "We went through this during the war, my husband, brother and myself. I know what it's like, but we had friends in the gallery, and in those days we had 'mock tribunals.' It takes courage to stand quite alone."

It is evident that the present day COs need the counselling of older COs. It is also noticable that those who base objections on the teaching of Christ, should be guided by competent pacifist Christians, who can also give instruction on the Old Testament, which should never be permitted to be a stumbling block to Christian pacifism but be regarded as the "progressive" history of a nation whose evil deeds necessitated the New Testament, and whose ethics caused even a tolerant God to take action—of a pacifist nature!

The cost, and the . . .

EACH H-bomb test at Eniwetok requires anywhere from 10,000 to 40,000 workers and costs up to 100,000,000 dollars (£35,700,000).

Each series in Nevada requires a force of 2,500 men and costs 30,000,0000 dollars (£10,700,000).

—Dr. A. C. Graves, Atomic Energy Commission weapons tester.

. . . consequences

WORLD air routes through the stratosphere are threatened by death clouds thrown up by atomic explosions. Scientists are trying to find an answer to this new peril.

The death-bearing dust rises to tremendous heights.

It pollutes the routes, eight miles up, along which planes like the Comet will fly, circulates there for lengthy periods and is blown along for hundreds of miles.

Recent tests revealed a danger that the dust might percolate into the pressurised cabins of high altitude aircraft, threatening the lives of the passengers.

Scientists at Aldermaston atomic weapons research station in Berkshire are designing filters. —Daily Herald, Jan. 27, 1955.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

By Hugh Brock

A student again

GWEN CATCHPOOL, who with her late husband Corder, did so much to salvage human wreckage from Germany in the thirties and forties, is off to the USA.

She has been offered a scholarship for a lecture course at the Friends College, Pendle Hill.

Gwen Catchpool tells me that she is very glad of the opportunity of quiet study. "To go back and be a student again at my time of life is such a marvellous privilege."

"I shall be seeing very many former German people, friends of Corder's and mine, who emigrated for one reason or another to the US, some of them because of Nazism, some because of Communism, others in the hope of liberating their sons from military service, but alas, it is saddled on that country too."

Toothbrushes not wanted

AT Pendle Hill, Gwen Catchpool will find another Peace Pledge Union member waiting to greet her. Winifred Rawlins, former member of National Council now lives and works at this famous American Quaker centre.

In a letter to her sister Kathleen in this country, Winifred says that Pendle Hill sent a contingent of poster paraders to Washington to join in the demonstration outside the White House on Jan. 29, the day President Eisenhower signed the Congress resolution giving him a blank cheque to wage war in the Formosa area (picture, Peace News Feb. 11).

Pendle Hill's contingent included two Indians (Hindus) and a Russian-by-birth Canadian.

Winifred Rawlins, who has sampled the inside of US prisons as a result of peace demonstrations, warned the group to take their toothbrushes—but on this occasion it was unnecessary.

The short answer

I WAS glad to see Dr. "Jimmy" Jameson, who served the Peace Pledge Union so well for many years as librarian, replying in The Times effectively to a letter criticising opposition to US policy in Formosa.

Derek Wyburd had wanted to know what the Labour Party's attitude would be if China "turned the heat on Hong Kong."

Dr. Jameson replied, on Feb. 18: "If Mr. Attlee and the Labour Party are true to their principles they will do with Hong Kong what they did with India—namely, hand it back to its original owners.

At Cambridge too

MY note on February 18 about the development of pacifist groups at colleges and universities needs bringing up to date.

Stuart Morris, General Secretary of the Peace Pledge Union, tells me that he was at Cambridge recently for a meeting of a new group at the university. New groups are also being formed at Birmingham and London.

Any medals?

HOW many pacifists still have war medals?

Ex-serviceman and Peace Pledge Union member, Roger Rawlinson, would like those who have, to join with him in taking them to the War Office as a gesture against German Rearmament.

Not having any myself (I think it was the Middlesex Regiment who had me on their books and were disappointed when I did not take a medical examination), I nevertheless think it a good idea, and one which would show solidarity with our German pacifist ex-servicemen.

Roger Rawlinson, 67 Hollam Road, Milton, Southsea, would be glad to hear from anyone interested in such an action.

CHRISTIAN PACIFISM AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

CONFERENCE

for boys between the ages of 16 & 19

to be held at

RECKITT HOUSE,
Leighton Park School, Reading

From Sat. April 2 to Sat. April 4

LEADERS:

John Ounsted
Frederick Moorhouse
Philip Seed

CONFERENCE FEE £1

Applications to FRIENDS PEACE COMMITTEE
Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1

Whose finger on the bomber base button?

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

WHO is to be responsible for the release of nuclear weapons from bases in Britain in the event of war? Will it rest with Parliament or with the military?

If an inter-continental balistic missile, fitted with a hydrogen warhead, able to travel 4,000 miles per hour over a range of 5,000 miles, were to be released from a base in Britain, who would have sanctioned such an action?

Last October, Field Marshal Montgomery said:

> "I want to make it absolutely clear that we at SHAPE are basing all our operational planning on using atomic and thermonuclear weapons in our defence. It is no longer a question of 'They may possibly be used.' It is very definitely 'They will be used if we are attacked'."

This statement pointed to the fact that military leaders would have more say in the matter than Parliament, and questions were asked in the Commons. Both the Prime Minister and Sir Anthony Eden made it known that an official decision would be made at the then forthcoming NATO meeting.

The communique issued after that meeting said, "The Council approved this report (for defence planning taking into account modern developments of weapons) noting that this approval did not involve the delegation of the responsibility of Governments to make decisions for putting plans into effect."

But the New York Times reported, "A decision, generally taken to mean that aggression in Europe would be met by atomic and other new weapons, was made today (December 18) by the North Atlantic Council."

Whilst this see-saw of decision tips up-and-down, it is well to recall that the US Strategic Air Command bases in Britain do not come under NATO at all—and American Commanders have publicly said that it is from these bases that nuclear weapons will be carried!

In the Lords recently, Viscount Elibank asked if the US Strategic Air Command operated directly under the orders of the US Strategic Air Force Command in Omaha, Nebraska, and in reply, Lord Carrington, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Defence, quoted the joint Anglo-American communique of 1952, in which it was said that under arrangements made for the common defence, the US has the use of certain bases in the UK. "We reaffirm," continued the communique, "the understanding that the use of these bases in an emergency would be a joint decision by Her Majesty's Government and the United States Government in the light of the circumstances prevailing at the time."

All of which is very far from satisfactory to the ordinary man-in-the-street. Not because he wishes to pin the politicians down to their task of making such decisions, nor because he prefers the military to take over matters to which they are better suited, but because he simply wants to live and let live.

SPECIAL for NEW ENGLANDERS

The Third Annual Avon Institute
Avon Old Farms, Avon Connecticut

The Quaker Approach to Contemporary Affairs

JUNE 12 - 19

Seven full days in the lovely and peaceful Connecticut countryside—the ideal setting in which to discuss in small round table groups the "Quaker Approach" to personal pacifism, ethical conflicts, political action, and other questions that need to be re-examined by all of us today. Round-table clerks will be Quakers qualified in group leadership. This is the heart of the Institute.

Quaker leaders will include: Cecil Hinshaw, just returned from a round-the-world trip; Hallam Tennyson, British Quaker who has worked in India; Norman Whitney, Professor at Syracuse University; Milton Mayer, author and lecturer; Raymond Wilson, Friends Committee on National Legislation. The programme is designed to provide an unhurried, relaxed pace. Food is excellent—plenty of recreation.

Write now for further detailed information regarding arrangements, cost and registration to:

Russell Johnson, Peace Section,
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE,
130 Brattle Street,
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1903

For the moral, political and social advancement of Indians in South Africa

Published Every Friday
Thirty Shillings Annually

APPLY

The Manager
Indian Opinion
P. Bag, Phoenix, Natal, S. Africa

OLD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

for Peace, Justice, Animal Welfare, Healing, and truly spiritual religion.

Literature and specimen magazine 1s.

WANTED TO RENT: Room or Hall in Central London suitable for use as public chapel. Also similar room or hall in the Medway Towns.

STEENOVEN HOUSE,
16 Aberdeen Road, Highbury, London, N.5.

PPU RELIGION COMMISSION

Pacifist Universalist Service

3.30 p.m. Sunday March 6th

King's Weigh House Church, Binney St., W.1.
(Near Bond St. Tube)

Discourse by Rev. C. P. Bradley
"The Jud e-Christian Ethic"

I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union.
Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS
Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1

FEBRUARY 30!

There isn't such a date? No, but there may be some time in the future, for, in an effort to equalise the months, the World Calendar Association have drawn up a World Calendar which may supersede the present Gregarian one.

In "SOME ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANTAGES OF THE WORLD CALENDAR," by James Avery Joyce, January, April, July and October have thirty-one days, whilst the other months have thirty, with the exception of December, which has a Worldsday—a world holiday—dated December 31.

Copies of this interesting booklet are obtainable from the Association at 20 Buckingham St., London, W.C.2, or 630 Fifth Ave., New York, 20.

AFRICA'S UNKNOWN PAST

By Olumbe Bassir

MANY genuine friends of Africa, who are actively opposed to both the theory and the practice of "White Supremacy" entertain considerable doubt when faced with the question "Why has there been no civilisation in Africa south of the Sahara?"

These liberals wonder why, when the African negro was free to compete with the rest of the world, he appears to have failed to evolve a way of life, a culture pattern, a civilising system to contribute to the general human uplift. Philip Mason, in his "Essay on Racial Conflict" uses this apparent anachronism as a peg on which to hang the heavy cloak of Apartheid which is slowly enveloping the whole of East, Central and South Africa.

Sir Montagu Wheeler, at the 1954 Oxford Meeting of the British Association, made an impassioned appeal to the Colonial authorities to abandon the destructive campaign in which old mosques, sculptures, and other priceless relics of ancient African civilisations in East and Central Africa are being systematically dismantled and piratically plundered by Europeans. Now, since one of the main reasons given by advocates of racial separatism in Africa is that the "natives" are only a few years removed from barbarism and have no historic past or social inheritance, these acts of vandalism are damnable.

★

Fortunately, however, a Gold Coast African scholar has now compiled irrefutable evidence* of the glorious part played by Africans in shaping the historical destiny of Europe, America, and other parts of the world. The author links securely the ancient civilisations of the Nile and the Euphrates with noble African endeavour, and traces the evolution of the Roman and Moorish empires to the birth of the scientific thought and learning; all these to their early beginnings in Africa.

Dr. de Graft-Johnson's history, like most history, turns out to be political history. He narrates the story of the destruction of, in 705 AD, the vines and gardens of fertile Byzacene and the eclipse of that magnificent kingdom of Queen Kahina as "one of the most resolute attempts to keep Africa for the Africans." He goes on to describe the conquest of Spain by the General Tarik in 711 AD as an "African conquest."

But there are other aspects of "African Glory" which make it a distinctive landmark in the recorded history of Africa, south of the Sahara. There are copious references to the writings and experiences and world-wide travels of Ibn Battuta and the light they throw upon the vast Sudanic Empires and social organisation. We are instructed that before the Almoravid (Senegalese) conquest of the Ghana state in 1076 AD over 10,000 of her subjects were fed daily, without charge. Does this not elicit a gasp of wonder from enthusiasts of our welfare state? Both the Almoravid and the Almohade were "empires of two shores." Both extended from the Atlantic coast to the Mediterannean. And they were entirely Negro.

The author of AFRICAN GLORY observes that there were some Africans still ruling in Spain while Elmina Castle was being built "in the Gold Coast by other southern Europeans." In this tangled web of mediaeval history, a place can be found for the descendants of the Ghana who are the ancestors of many Gold Coasters.

It is an eye-opener to read in this book how the Gezira cotton growing scheme was anticipated, by many centuries, by the efforts of Sundiata and his Mali (Madingo) empire to cultivate the fibre on a large scale by the technique of irrigation. This African age was marked by fantastic shows of splendour so reminiscent of the gaiety of royalty in this country. Imagine Mansa Musa's train of 60,000 people with food and beasts of burden en route to pilgrimage in Mecca in 1324.

It is quite impossible to give an adequate account of the ground covered in De Graft-Johnson's treatise. When one compares the achievement of the professors and teachers of the University of Sankore in Timbuctoo in the Middle Ages as recounted in Tarikh-en-Sudan (a book published by the University Press in 1640) with the relative infertility of African scholars of our day, one appreciates the appropriateness of the phrase "vanishing civilisation."

I wonder how many people realise that the ruling family of the Djeune in W. Africa represent an unbroken line from 1250 AD; or that of the total force of 4,000 invaders from Morocco who in 1590, burned the capital cities of the West African Federation, 2,500 were Europeans—most of the infantry being English. How many realise that Africans were mining gold in the Congo long before the first European set foot on her soil; or the extent and recklessness of the Dutch effacement of the Portuguese civilisation in the Congo in the 17th century? The slave trade which was conducted by the British and other Europeans in West Africa led to the loss of about 100 million African lives. It meant the complete degradation of the African peoples, and the writer of "African Glory" deserves praise for the account he gives of it.

Some critics will regret that no detailed study of ancient Ethiopian or South African civilisations is made in the book; while extensive and sometimes confusing data are given of Phoenician, Roman and Arabian adventures. Also, very little is said of the Yoruba kingdoms and the civilisation which nurtured culture products such as the terra cotta heads of Ife and the bronze pieces of Benin. But for all its shortcomings, we welcome this book as the first serious attempt to re-write African history, and sincerely hope that it will become a text book for students throughout Africa and Europe.

* *African Glory, by J. C. de Graft-Johnson. Watts & Co.* 21s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Peace above Party

MR. EMRYS HUGHES, article (PN February 11) should have been in Forward, not in a pacifist paper.

The reader is treated by him to a gratuitous summing up of the present political leaders: the low cunning of Sir Winston Churchill, and Sir Anthony Eden, the guileless innocence of the not-so-bright Mr. Attlee, followed by the promise that if all goes well Labour will win the next election. We may now look forward to a heartfelt eulogy of Mr. Bevan, guileless too, but of brilliant intellect.

There are pacifists who would not welcome a Labour government. It savours too much of the Road to Serfdom, with its direction of labour, nationalisation of industry, not to mention its conscription.

WINIFRED GREENFIELD.
16a Hillside Gardens,
Highgate, N.6.

Horror comics

I AM sure that Robert Greacen's condemnation of horror comics is sound; but I distrust some of the company he keeps.

Are these American-styled comics condemned for what they say, or for the way they say it? Is it their attitude to life which is objectionable or their artistic shortcomings?

Is there not some confusion of thought in the allegation that today's shilling equivalent of the penny dreadful of my boyhood is responsible for the wave of individual delinquency and gang violence in this age of unrivalled government propaganda for, and compulsory training in, violent anti-social conduct threatening the existence of the earth itself?

Would it be impertinent to ask what books engage the interest of the cultured statesmen who contrive and conduct the wars uncultured conscripts are forced to fight?

I was entirely addicted to the romantic adventures of Claud Duval and Dick Turpin, notorious highwaymen: but I never rode a horse or attempted to hold up any other than a public transport vehicle, by hand, unarmed. I only became a soldier when some statesman steeped in the classics exhorted the nation to do its duty by gallant little Belgium.

SAM WALSH
10 Stevenstone Court,
St. Giles in the Wood.
Torrington, Devon.

Children's reading

THE pressure of organised opinion has at last forced the Home Secretary to take action against "horror comics," a subject which was discussed in these pages on February 11. Printers, publishers, vendors and importers of publications that "tend to corrupt" young people are now liable to imprisonment for four months or to a maximum fine of £100, or to both penalties. It will be interesting to observe whether these publications soon disappear altogether or whether any black market in them will come into being. In any event it is certainly time that something was done about this menace to the welfare of our children.

At the same time legislation in matters of this kind is not often much more than a short-term remedy. What is really needed now is a report drawn up by educationalists, psychologists and others equally qualified, analysing the effects of reading on the child and adolescent mind. We mostly know what children and young people should be discouraged from reading, but ideas are scanty about what they should be given to assist their development at a critical stage. Might not this job, less dramatic than calling on the Government to suppress something, be a worthwhile task for a pacifist group with specialist qualifications?

ROBERT GREACEN.
London, S.W.10.

They served our movement . . .

I WAS privileged to know personally all three of the pacifists whose obituary notices appeared in Peace News on Feb. 18. All three were persons of high quality.

Beatrice Brown was 80. She wrote me a few days before she died, but there was no reference to illness. She was an untiring peace secretary, whose genial and indefatigable spirit overcame every obstacle.

When I went to prison in February 1917, she helped Theodore Wilson to carry on the New Crusader which I had started in 1915. No one ever rendered more devoted whole-time service to the cause of peace for so little material reward. To her, simple living was of the essence of peace advocacy.

Arthur Rashleigh, an Anglican clergyman, was one of the gentlest and most lovable men I have ever met. But although gentle he was persistent and never shrank from bearing his testimony to his pacifist faith which to him was of the core of Christianity. We first met about 35 years ago, when he chaired a meeting I addressed in Worcestershire. He had a charge in the Stourbridge Division, but later went to Truro in Cornwall. He was a keen gardener, and a couple of hours with him in his garden was a joy to be remembered. When a farmer once offered him a load of manure, he expressed his gratitude but said he knew a poor man whose need of a load of manure was much greater than his own, and that he would be exceedingly grateful if the farmer would transfer his bounty accordingly. That was the way Arthur Rashleigh made pacifists. And he did things like that throughout his 95 years.

Harry Dearne was a "character", a schoolmaster who had a keen eye for contradictions and a unique capacity for exposing them. He had genius for exposing the blindness of intellectuals, the lack of vision in people of authority, and the short-lived idealism of most politicians. It was impossible to forecast what he would say on any occasion, but everyone knew that it would be wisdom to keep one's ears open.

These are three distinct types of personality of which there are few examples left.

WILFRED WELLOCK.
New Longton, Preston.

Corporal punishment

IT is surprising to find in Peace News a highly complimentary reference to a radio play in which violence is accepted as a disciplinary method in dealing with young people (Radio, by Joseph Fleming, Feb. 11).

Joseph Fleming's objection that the violence is inflicted by those with "immature minds" merely leaves the impression that he would have no objection to a play in which thrashings were administered by adults at their "mature discretion" as the result of "balanced decisions."

Surely the error is not, as Mr. Fleming suggests, in popularising the view that a headmaster can absolve himself from exercising his mature discretion by delegating authority; but in popularising the view that corporal punishment is a cure for bullying or anything else.

Non-violence, to be of value, must mean more than a refusal to fight in wars. It must be a compassionate way of life which is reflected in our dealings with others, certainly in our attitude to children.

MICHAEL GODFREY.
11 Rotherwick Rd.,
London, N.W.11.

Land tenure

MR. J. W. E. RIEMANS may be right in his contention "Third Way or Third War" (PN January 28) but if this new movement is to have any success it must examine the foundation of society, not the structure.

Political policies which rely ultimately on war and violence will not change while society itself is based on economic injustice. This injustice is primarily shown in the system of land tenure which prevails all over the world. Through it people are deprived of access to natural resources, and driven to a standard of living which in many areas amounts to bare subsistence level.

BETTY WALDEN.
4 Priory Ave.,
Bedford Park, W.4.

More letters on next page

But who is the "wicked uncle?"

ANALOGY, we understand, means equivalency or likeness of relations. Too often it is used to extricate the user from difficulties and mislead an audience.

We thought this when the Rev. E. G. Rupp in "Church and State" (*Third*), likened Christians to "the babes in the wood at the mercy of the wicked uncle"; the uncle, of course, being the State. However, being too old in the tooth to be deceived by such tactical swerves, we must insist that when defining the functions of Church and State one has in mind the bodies collective and their interrelationship. It is as incongruous to speak of citizens when meaning State, as Christians when meaning Church.

That the State often follows a policy contrary to Christian ethics is beyond dispute, but we have yet to welcome the official opposition of the Church to imperialism, armaments and war.

RADIO by Joseph Fleming

When the speaker informed us: "the Kingdom of God is another dimension for political society," and remembering that the Church and State are united in fundamental evils, we must conclude that the Kingdom of God is another dimensoion from both Church and State!

In "Science Survey" (*Home*), P. T. Haskell played records of a series of grasshopper songs. It appears that these musical atrocities—a cross between a rattling chain and a badly oiled circular saw—"serve to keep groups of males together (a sing-song in the local?) and assure survival. "We appreciate the reaction of the females when, serenaded with courting songs, they landed hefty kicks at their passionate troubadours. The BBC would advance in popularity if listeners were allowed similar scope towards some of their modern musical items.

Said Bickham Sweet-Escott in "The World and Ourselves" (*Home*), "Persia and Italy are now our close friends." A reason for this wonderful discovery? "Both Italy and Persia are important links to the West for defence."

Quite disinterested you see. Just one of those pure attachments when people are suddenly welded together by the common band of human affection.

"Both Italy and Persia" the speaker said "have battles with Communism within their own frontiers, due to the vast gap between the haves and the have-nots. It would be fatal if Communism replaced the governments in either country."

It seems that the only threat to the existing governments of both countries comes from those wretched have-nots, whose cultural backwardness and lack of loyalty preclude their appreciation of the joys of empty stomachs and servitude.

Fortunately, our vast experience in Colonial mercy can now be placed at the service of our new friends. The haves need have no fear, they have merely to guarantee their have-nots will "voluntarily" commit *hara-kari* to support our survival, and we will provide loans. Similar help from the East, would, of course, be subversive infiltration; between "friends," unthinkable!

Pacifists and the press

DURING the past twelve months I have become dismayed at the small number of those who write to the press on pacifism and kindred subjects.

The area in which I live is served by three local evening papers, two semi-local county daily papers and the usual batch of reactionary Nationals. I have noted to my sorrow that I am almost alone in my presentation of the pacifist message.

Peace News has had, and will continue to have, my support as a reader and distributor. I think it is a good paper and I would like to see more reading it; but its influence on the public from a circulation of about 11,000 must remain severely restricted.

During 1954 I have had published in the local and semi-local papers, twenty-one letters dealing specifically with pacifism. The circulations of the papers concerned are 30,000, 47,000 and 116,000.

Notwithstanding the fact that I write under a nom de plume I have frequently learnt that my letters are being read and even discussed. Of course many do not agree with what I say or how I say it, but the fact remains that pacifism (and this is the most important point) is being put across to the unconverted.

What about it Peace News readers?

W. E. BRAY.

2 Westfield Avenue,
Oakes, Huddersfield.

Our "outcast" society

NEW YORK headlines this week (February 11) are featuring all the sensational details of the early Sunday morning slaying of a New York University co-ed. (*Under the headline "Quaker Girl Murdered," the killing of Ann Yarrow was on the front page of the Daily Express, February* 8.—Ed.).

Ann had been personally known to many of us. She was a Quaker and for some months last winter and spring had worked in the office of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The "No. 1 suspect" has been apprehended, and it now appears that it will be but a matter of days before the case is officially closed.

It is not surprising that this tragedy has led many of us to do more thinking than usual about the question of crime. Not just the way we handle, or mishandle, the criminal. But the whole question of the increasing incidence of crime, especially among the young (I offer no statistical evidence here and would, of course, be happy to have someone show me that this observation is unwarranted). What is it about the way we live that produces criminals? What can we say about the several recent brutal crimes committed by teen-agers "just for kicks," with about as much enthusiasm before, during and afterwards as one exhibits when dragged along to a second-rate movie by companions who can think of "nothing else to do"?

It is common to speak of the man or woman who commits a crime as an "outcast." From a rather naive perspective, it is his very crime that makes him so. Thus we feel justified in cutting him further off from that which he has already, by his deed(s), rejected. From a more analytical point of view, however, his crime merely brings to light a prior condition or feeling of being "out of community." As we learn more about Mike, I think we shall find that his life's pattern is one of "lone wolfism," similar to the aimless round he offers currently as the story of last Saturday night's activity—a couple of drinks, a movie alone, a few more drinks, a fight with a prostitute in a furnished room, more drinks, etc.

The lone wolf finds himself at the police station and is sent on to prison or the electric chair is a conspicuous outcast. Many another person, without close family or friends, without enthusiasm for the job he holds, without spiritual resources for handling conflicts and moods, without hope for a better world and hence, a better personal lot, is inconspicuously so.

We can think of Ann herself as out of community, but in that "socially acceptable" way most of us are these days. She "belonged" many places, but as far as I can gather, had no close companions, "bore her burdens" in fact alone. This aloneness, amounting almost to aloofness, so pervades modern city life that it is *acceptable*. But we begin to grow in personal maturity and social responsibility when we realize, agonisingly, just how *unacceptable* it is. Some of us almost despair when we brush up against the atomistic character of city life day in and day out. And how frightening to discover on occasion that we too are failing to communicate with our brothers on anything but the most superficial level!

I cannot help thinking of Ann's as "the life we have lost in living." Her spirit now rests with the Eternal. May ours be restless until we refind our human community.

COLLETTE SCHLATTER.

Brooklyn, USA.

LETTERS

SEE ALSO PAGE FOUR

Pacifists and Communists

KENNETH RAWLINGS seems to consider it illogical of Tom Wardle to suggest that conscientious objectors to homicide should refuse to unite their peace efforts with those who have no such conscientious objection, having abjured anything as old-fashioned as conscience in favour of total materialism. Surely it is only reasonable for Tom Wardle to doubt the motives as well as the integrity of colleagues who, if things do not go the way they wish, would not hesitate to support their country's war policy.

Lenin thought there was something a little illogical and even regrettable, about cracking men's skulls in order to establish a world-brotherhood, but because he had no "conscience" he made no objection to bloody revolution. Quite the reverse. And when we say "conscience" we do not mean only the Christian—Buddhist—Hindu variety but that spiritually natural conscience which, as Tolstoy reminded us, is evidenced in the fact that "Thou shalt not kill" was inscribed on the human heart long before it was proclaimed from Sinai.

It is this that Lenin and his followers seek to eliminate in themselves and others, and this does not make them fit co-workers for those seeking to establish a state on non-violence and compassion on Gandhian lines: in effect, the only realistic peace-makers.

ESME WYNNE-TYSON.

Selsey, Sussex.

The remedy for pacifism

READING your editorial comment on my letter I feel inclined to ask you: Are you primarily concerned with Peace, or with being Pacifists?—I have heard it said that some pacifists would hate peace, because they would no longer have anything to conscientiously object about. This is pacifism for its own sake, which, in my view, is not leading anywhere. If, however, pacifists are primarily interested in Peace, then surely they should co-operate with anyone in any effort to strengthen peace, whether by outlawing H-bombs, admitting China to the United Nations, cutting arms expenditure in all countries, etc.

Having once been a pacifist, and having taken a five-year "cure" in the USSR, I am personally convinced that many of the best pacifists in Britain today, if they had lived through the experiences of the USSR in its struggle for survival since 1917, would be staunch supporters not only of Soviet peace proposals but also of the existence of the Soviet army.

PAT SLOAN,
General Secretary.

British Soviet Society,
36 Spencer St., E.C.1.

Pacifists believe that refusing to participate in war, rather than in building an army, is the way to peace. Pacifists who are associated with the work of the British Peace Committee and the World Peace Council believe this also. It is these we think should raise the question of the position of war-resisters in Eastern Europe.—Ed.

Points from letters

THE H-BOMB. Our possessing this extra instrument of extermination will make very little difference in the final onslaught, because the two giants on either side of us have already sharpened their claws to capacity.

A deep knowledge of diplomacy should have taught us that it is not by brutal force that countries are brought to reason but by reason itself. If we have to kill a man to prove ourselves right the result is an unconvinced corpse.

If we are such a brave nation as we contend to be why do we not stand alone again, this time to dispose of all those senseless weapons and lead the world to peace through strength? —*Georgette Sim, Taunton.*

ANIMAL VICTIMS: Are you keeping an eye and a bit of pity and "protection" for the poor animals which may again be used in the awful atom bomb tests? We wonder how long some of those animals (used at Bikini) lived afterwards in an agonised condition.—*Marion Crowe, Crawley.*

TOTAL EXEMPTION: While his argument is based on an admirable motive, David Godin should carefully consider how much greater would be his witness were he to turn a bacon slicer (or preferably a cabbage slicer) for 18 months voluntarily, after obtaining unconditional exemption. This entirely voluntary action would be a much more obvious and worthy sacrifice than the compulsory one, which partly helps to perpetuate the evil of conscription.—*Philip Morris, Tewkesbury.*

IN PEACE NEWS NEXT WEEK

A report of the National Peace Council's successful youth week—end conference will appear in Peace News next week; also: the Bevan-Soper meeting against German rearmament at the Central Hall Westminster; and Wilfred Wellock's London meetings.

DIARY

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select notices for publication. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

Send notices to arrive not later than Monday morning. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address) —preferably in that order and style.

Friday, March 4

LONDON, W.C.1: 5.30-7 p.m.; Friends Int. Centre, 32 Tavistock Sq., WC.1. Informal tea-time meeting to discuss the future of the PPU Social Order Commission, led by Wilfred Wellock and Dora Holder. All interested welcomed. Refreshments. PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m.; Friends Int. Centre. Wilfred Wellock, "America, Which Way Now?"—a report of his three months lecture tour. Chairman, J. Allen Skinner. Refreshments from 7 p.m. Peace News Mtg.

Saturday, March 5

LONDON: H-bomb protest poster parades. 10.30 a.m. Kew Bridge (Spring Grove Corner), meet Mary Harrison walking from Salisbury; 1.30 p.m. Hammersmith Broadway (Bute Gdns. crnr. of Hammersmith Rd.); 3.30 p.m. Trafalgar Sq. Poster bearers and leaflet distributors wanted. PPU.

LONDON, N.5: 4 p.m.; Steenoven House, 16 Aberdeen Rd., Highbury. Rev. Ernest Dawe, "Moral Implications of German Rearmament." Crusade of Prayer for Peace of the World. Also Business Mtg. PPU.

SOUTHPORT: 3 p.m.; Sunnyside Private Hotel, Castle Walk. Area AGM. PPU.

SOUTHPORT: 7 p.m.; YMCA, Eastbank St. Public Mtg. PPU.

Sunday, March 6

LONDON, W.1: 3.30 p.m.; King's Weigh Ho. Ch., Binney St. Pacifist Universalist Service, Rev. C. P. Bradley. "The Judae-Christian Ethic." PPU Religion Commission.

SOUTHPORT: 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.; Sunnyside Private Hotel, Castle Walk. Conference. Edith Adlam, "Formosa and Far East." Weekend bookings, Sat. tea to Sun tea 17s. 6d. to Mary Staufer, 22 Hall Pk., Lancaster. PPU.

Monday, March 7

BIRMINGHAM: 7.30 p.m.; 36 Westbourne Rd. Olton 27. Sheldon Group Members Mtg. All pacifists in area welcome. PPU.

THORNTON HEATH: 8 p.m.; 47 Parchmore Rd. (nr. Stn.) Mrs. B. D. Harris, J.P., "Abolition of War." FoR.

Tuesday, March 8

HARROGATE: 7.45 p.m.; Imperial Cafe, Parliament St., Rev. Alex McGovern, "Christianity and Peace." Public Mtg. Harrogate Peace Gp.

Every week!

SUNDAYS

HYDE PARK: 3 p.m.; Pacifist Youth Action Group. Every Sunday. PYAG.

TUESDAYS

MANCHESTER: 1-2 p.m.; Deansgate Blitz Site. Christian pacifist open-air mtg. Local Methodist ministers and others. MPF.

WEDNESDAYS

NOTTINGHAM: 1.15 p.m.; Open-air mtg. Old Market Sq. Rev. Donald Pipe and others. FoR. PPU.

THURSDAYS

LONDON, W.C.1: 1.15-1.45 p.m.; Church of St. George the Martyr, Queen St. Weekly lunch-hour Service of Intercession for World Peace. Conducted by clergy and laymen of different denominations.

SHEFFIELD: 7.30 p.m. Friends Mtg. Ho, Hartshead. Edith Adlam, "Formosa." Public Mtg. PPU.

WALSALL: 7.30 p.m.; Central Hall, Ablewell St. Public Mtg. John Hoyland, "Youth and Peace." FoR.

Thursday, March 10

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Jim Youell, "Recent Changes in Russian Policy." PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m.; Dick Sheppard Ho., 6 Endsleigh St. Donald Chesworth. "Colonialism, a Factor for War." PYAG.

LONDON, N.W.1: 7.30 p.m.; Friends Ho., Euston Rd. Vera Brittain, Emrys Hughes, Victor Yates, Alex Comfort, Rev. Claud Coltman, Cannon T. B. Scrutton, Sybil Morrison, John Hoyland. A United H-bomb Protest Mtg. Standing Joint Pacifist Committee.

Friday, March 11

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m.; Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., Lord Boyd Orr, FRS. "Ethics in the Atomic Age." Chairman, Lord Horder. South Place Ethical Society.

Saturday, March 12

LANCASTER: 3 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., (adj. Castle Stn.) Edith Adlam. "South East Asia, Problems of Chinese Minorities". Area Qtly. PPU.

LIVERPOOL: 7.30 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Hunter St. Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale, "Science, Politics and Peace." Public Mtg. SoF.

MORLEY, LEEDS: 6.30 p.m.; Adult Sch., Ackroyd St. John Kay. John Lockett. "Any Questions on Peace and War." SoF.

Sunday, March 13

COULSDON: 3 p.m.; 87 Chaldon Way. Frank Dawtry. "The Penal System." Surrey Area. PPU. AGM.

ILKLEY: 2.0 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Queens Rd. John Kay. "The Hope for Peace Today". Public Mtg. SoF.

LEEDS: 6.30 p.m.; Fellowship Ho., St. Michaels Rd. John Lockett. "Our Witness for Peace Today". Public Mtg. SoF.

ROUNDHAY, LEEDS: 6.30 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., 136 Street Lane. John Kay "The hope for peace today". Public Mtg. SoF.

Monday, March 14

BURY: 7.30 p.m.; Walmersley Rd. Methodist Sch. Edith Adlam "Formosa". FoR.

Thursday, March 17

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Howard Hutchins, "Life in Prison." PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m.; Dick Sheppard Ho., 6 Endsleigh St. Tony Blackmore. "Journey to Poland." PYAG.

Saturday, March 19

IPSWICH: Objective Peace Demonstration. See announcement on back page. PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7-9.30 p.m.; Friends Int. Centre, 32 Tavistock Sq. Film show. PYAG.

LEYTONSTONE: 6.30 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho, Bush Rd. Film Show, "Mission for Peace," "Glimpses of Gandhi," "Probation Officer," "Family Tree," "The World is Rich." PPU.

Monday, March 21

BRIDLINGTON: 7.30 p.m.; Havelock St. Alec Horsley, "Religion in Russia." Public Mtg.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

TERMS: Cash with order, 3d. per word, minimum 2s. 6d. (Box No. 6d. extra). Please don't send stamps in payment, except for odd pence. Maximum length 60 words. Address for Box No. replies: Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4.

LATEST TIME for copy: Monday morning before publication.

DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENTS are required by the Thursday eight days prior to publication.

MEETINGS

BIRMINGHAM PEOPLE'S PEACE COMMITTEE Annual mtg. Thursday, March 10, 8 p.m. International Centre, Suffolk St. "Top level talks now for world security." Also, Saturday, March 5, Peace Poster Parade (leaving Waterloo Stn. opp. Town Hall 2.45 p.m.) All welcome.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB, Bath. Tuesdays, 7.30. Literary Institute, 18 Queen Sq. All welcome.

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL. One Performance only German film, "Condemned Village" (English titles) Tues. March 8, 8 p.m. Entrance 9d. Kensington Assoc. for Peace.

KING'S WEIGH House Church, Duke St., nr. Bond St. Tube. Sunday at 6.30 p.m. "The Gospel and Materialism," Mr. Ebenezer Cunningham, M.A. (Camb).

ACCOMMODATION WANTED AND OFFERED

AGM DELEGATE recommends Shayler for board or bed and breakfast.

HOMELY ACCOMMODATION and jolly good food to visitors and permanent guests. CANonbury 1340, Telkea Shayler, 27 Hamilton Pk., N.5.

WANTED—small meeting room, with piano, for Sunday service. Central or NW London area. Moderate rent. Box No. 609.

HOLIDAYS

BEACONWOOD HOTEL, Beacon Rd., Minehead, Somerset. Tel. 32. Vegetarian meals only. H. & C., gas fires and gas rings in all rooms. 6½-7 gns.

BOURNEMOUTH (Boscombe). Small Guest House near sea. H & C all rooms. Personal supervision. Vegetarian and ordinary diet. Norah Bailey, Court Green, 18 Glen Rd. Tel.: 33621.

BUXTON. Westminster Vegetarian Guest House, Broad Walk. Friendly comfort. Home baking Good district walking and touring. Tel. 929 Janet and James Joyce.

CARDIGAN BAY. Sea and mountains; vegetarians welcome; 5 gns. weekly (full August). Also furnished rooms, own kitchen. Jepson, Brackenhurst, Fairbourne, Merioneth.

DERBYSHIRE HILLS: THE BRIARS Vegetarian Guest House, for happy holidays or quiet recuperation. 45 guests. Brochure from Ronald and Marguerite Heymans, Crich nr. Matlock. Tel. Ambergate 44.

EASTBOURNE. Small Guest House for quiet holiday near sea and downs. Non-vegetarian. Terms 5-6 gns. Miss Lovering, 11 Edensor Road.

FRESHWATER BAY (I.W.), Dimbola, overlooking Bay and Downs. H & C. Television and games rooms. Ideal centre. Write brochure.

GALWAY. Gateway to Connemara. Wonderful scenery, botanists' paradise. Bathing, fishing. Comfortable accommodation, good food. April to September. "Rockewell," Lower Salthill, Galway.

HOLIDAY Friendship Service. 80 holidays in 18 countries inc.: Wales, Portugal, Morocco, India, Israel, Bulgaria. Send stamp. 5 Goodwins Court, London, W.C.2

LYME REGIS for delightful scenery. Packed with history. A geologist's hunting-ground. Bed and breakfast 12s. 6d. Vegetarian and non-vegetarian. Interior sprung mattresses. Box No. 602.

LYNMOUTH, Devon. Shelley's Cottage, situated in centre of village. Comfortable beds, excellent food. Vegetarians welcome. Haynes. Phone: Lynton 3219.

SANDOWN ISLE OF WIGHT. Kintore Vegetarian Food Reform Guest House. Close to sea and cliff walks, shops, etc. 25 Guests. Every comfort, two lounges, Children welcome, special terms. Brochure from Mr. and Mrs. Bailey. Tel. Sandown 655.

SEA PALLING, NORFOLK. Quiet village, excellent beach, near Broads/Sanctuaries. Comfort, good food (Vegn. catering available). Woodbine Guest House, Hickling 236.

RYE. Simon the Pieman Tearooms receive a few guests. Rye 2207.

SPEND YOUR HOLIDAY in the Lake District this year. Highfield Vegetarian Guest House, The Heads, Keswick, offers magnificent views, attractive food and comfort in friendly atmosphere. Vacancies for Easter. Anne Horner Phone: Keswick 508.

SWANAGE, Vegetarian Guest House overlooking sea. Children welcomed. Brochure: "Waveney," Park Rd., Tel. 2804.

PERSONAL

AUBREY BROCKLEHURST, qualified watchmaker, offers wide selection of new watches with genuine guarantees. Enquiries welcomed: articles sent on appro. All types of watch, clock, and jewellery repairs. Old gold and silver purchased. 6 Endsleigh St., London, W.C.1. Tel.: EUSton 5501.

"ELIJAH COMING Before Christ," wonderful book free. Megiddo Mission, Dept. 1d. Rochester 19, N.Y.

INTRODUCTIONS. Friendship or marriage; home and overseas. V.C.C., 34 Honeywell Rd., London, S.W.11.

MARRIAGE BUREAU offers introductions everywhere. Details free; Mary Blair (Room 17), 147 Holborn, London, E.C.1.

REGINALD BAILBY, Naturopath and psychiatrist, 134 Hoppers Rd., N.21. Palmers Green 9868. By appt.

THE BAPTIST PACIFIST FELLOWSHIP invites your support. For details of membership write: Rev. Leslie Worsnip, 63 Loughborough Rd., Quorn, Leicester.

WAR RESISTERS' International welcomes gifts of foreign stamps and undamaged air mail covers. Please send to WRI, Lansbury House, 88 Park Ave., Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

EDUCATION

EDUCATIONALIST, mid-stream, would be glad to hear from middle aged thinkers in any field, interested to help plan a holiday (August or September) re-exploring, through emotionally and intellectually honest discussion, some basic human problems; theme perhaps "evolution and education". Offers of simple accommodation on or near organically-run farm (for food supplies and chance land work as relaxation!) welcome. Box 610.

SPEAKING AND WRITING lessons (correspondence, visit), 5s. Dorothy Matthews, BA, 32 Primrose Hill Rd., London, N.W.3. PRImrose 5686.

LITERATURE

QUAKERISM. Information and literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

THE RAILWAY REVIEW. The best informed, TU newspaper. Trade union and political news; Railway problems and working conditions featured in every issue. Every Friday, 12 pages, price 3d.

VOICE OF THE WORLD CITIZEN. 2d. per month or 3s. 6d. per annum, post free. From Crusade for World Government, 20 Buckingham St., London, W.C.2.

SITUATIONS AND WORK WANTED

ALTERATIONS, Conversions, Industrial Developments and buildings work of all kinds efficiently carried out. Plans prepared; free estimates. Phone TUL. 3052 for immediate attention.

SENIOR secretary shorthand-typist desires post London. Legal and commercial experience. Box 608.

MABEL EYLES Duplicating Service, 395 Hornsey Road, N.19. (ARC. 1765).

SITUATIONS VACANT

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through a local office of the Ministry of Labour or a scheduled employment agency if the applicant is a male aged 18 to 64 or a woman aged 18 to 59 inclusive unless he or she, or the employment, is excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952.

EARLY FORTHCOMING VACANCY. Active couple (or possibly Lady only) to manage large Guest House at South Coast resort catering largely for members and friends of Toc H, WVS, Quakers, etc. Open throughout year. 20—42 guests. Some experience essential. Salary (if joint appointment) £400—£500 plus full board and other benefits. No accommodation for children. Write fully, experience, age, when free etc. Box 611.

FOR SALE

EXTENSION LADDERS best material and craftsmanship. All rungs wired. Example one double 14 rung extension 6 gns. carr. paid. Arthur Roberts, 12 Clare Rd., Cardiff.

HANDWOVEN TWEED SKIRTS tailored to measure from 79s. 6d. Patterns and leaflet from Fairwarp Weavers, High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

Order PEACE NEWS from your newsagent or by post from 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4

Postal Subscription Rates

Great Britain and Abroad (Sea Mail):
Twelve wks. 5s.; 24 wks, 10s.; One yr. 21s.

TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR NEW READERS:
Home or Abroad: 2s. 6d. for nine weeks

Peace News in Canada and the USA

AIR EXPRESS EDITION
to US and all parts of America, from Peace News US Sales Office, c/o American Friends Service Committee, 130 Brattle St., Cambridge 38, Mass. (mailed on publication day).

$4 year. $2 six months.
New readers: 3 months trial, $1.

The turn of the tide

The Soviet plan for the immediate total destruction of all stocks of nuclear weapons has, unfortunately, no trace of being a genuine move in the right direction. It is clever and cruel propaganda for it plays on modern man's deepest political wish. The destruction of armaments, as Moscow knows perfectly well, can never be the beginning of disarmament; it is the last stage. —The Observer, February 27, 1955.

THE United Nations Disarmament Conference scarcely had an auspicious start, heralded in by the decision of the British Government to join in the thermo-nuclear weapon race, and by the outburst of objections poured upon Russia's proposals that the Great Powers should agree to the total destruction of all stocks of nuclear weapons.

Russia is accused of making this suggestion simply for propaganda purposes since the one great fear in the human heart today is the fear, perhaps not so much of annihilation, as of the dreadful diseases, the torturing mutilations, and the fearful possibilities of dying in agony while all chances of help have been destroyed in the holocaust.

Though Russia's proposals are somewhat disingenuous since the Kremlin knows perfectly well that, like all other military effective weapons, these nuclear weapons have come to stay unless one side or the other discards them (and there is no sign of Russia taking any such unilateral action), yet the Observer's comment is even more so.

"Moscow knows," the writer declares, that destruction of armaments can never be the beginning of disarmament, but only the end. There seems, however, no good reason why Moscow should know what, in fact, no one knows. Destruction of weapons, except when obsolete, has never been tried as a policy; even the fact that gas was not used in the second world war did not prevent millions of gallons being manufactured and held in readiness.

★

It is by no means unreasonable to suggest the destruction of weapons which are threatening the very existence of life on this earth, but the real trouble is that because this discovery had been made and cannot be unmade, rulers are faced with the unwelcome fact that to give them up is the beginning of the end of war as a method of bargaining, of settling disputes, of imposing terms upon an enemy.

It may well be true that the Soviet proposal is not a genuine peace move; if it were it would be a good deal more effective accompanied by some action, such as a promise to destroy their own stockpile and allow international inspection.

But it is hypocritical and ridiculous, not to say immoral, to expect the much condemned Soviet Regime to do something that obviously we have no intention of doing ourselves.

The British Government have made their position clear in the White Paper debated this week; the Labour Party motion of censure censures nothing but the deficiencies in so-called civil defence, and in expenditure which is not sufficiently accounted for in terms of necessary weapons.

That Party, which once stood for the ending of policies which involved ordinary people in different countries destroying each other at the behest of their rulers, now can find no point of difference with the Conservatives in a policy where destruction is the predominant note, and war an accepted basis.

All take their stand, presumably on the same ground as the Observer commentator, that destruction of nuclear weapons is out of the question. Yet reduction of so-called "conventional" weapons, even if it could be agreed, is a mere farce so long as a few aeroplanes are left to carry the H-bombs, which each side fondly believes will deter the other. This myth of deterrence, like a powerful drug, has reduced the minds of statesmen to futility and impotence, and the public to frustration and apathy.

But there is always a moment when the tide turns; it is incredibly difficult to perceive it, but nevertheless there is eventually the split second when the change occurs.

The very length to which the tide of commonsense, goodwill and morality had receded may well mark the turning point. Public opinion once stirred, can be as a rising tide carrying all before it. That it is rising now is without question.

It is for pacifists to take this tide of opinion at the turn, unfalteringly and steadfastly, for it is flowing the way of war abandonment at last. Here is the opportunity; now is the historic hour.

WALKING TO LONDON

☐ FROM PAGE ONE

Mrs. Harrison's pilgrimage has the full blessing of her builder husband. There is no family. "If there were I should not be able to do things like this" she said.

Mrs. Harrison is a native of Maesbrook, near Oswestry, Shropshire, and she came to live in Redlynch when she married Mr. Harrison in 1947. Both she and her husband are members of the Woodfalls methodist church and Mrs. Harrison has been a local preacher for 25 years. She is now planned in the Salisbury circuit and takes engagements on about eight Sundays out of every thirteen.

She has been an active member of the Peace Pledge Union since 1938 and has previously demonstrated at Porton Germ Warfare Station and at the atomic weapons plant at Aldermaston.

It was a lovely morning for the start of her walk—frosty but clear and soon there was brilliant sunshine. By Tuesday night she was at Alresford, having logged about 35 miles of her 80-90-mile walk.

Book your holiday with a Peace News Advertiser

PEACE NEWS HOLIDAY BUREAU

will gladly send suggestions for congenial and constructive holiday plans. Send stamped, addressed envelope to
3, BLACKSTOCK RD., LONDON, N.4

DEVON and CORNWALL

Holidays in friendly guest houses at Dawlish and Newquay. Exceptionally good value—excursions conducted. Well recommended. Illustrated Brochure II from
Seaside and Country Guest Houses Ltd.
Fairfield, Dawlish. Tel. 2151

Lovely Dorset Coast

OVERLOOKING WEYMOUTH BAY

4-Berth caravan, fully equipped. From 4 gns. week—not August week. Send for particulars.

Gray, Buckland Newton, Dorset.

Published from 3, Blackstock Rd., London, N.4, by Peace News Ltd. Printed by Fish & Cook Ltd., The Goodwin Press (T.U.), 135 Ponthill Rd., London, N.4

MRS PANDIT AT PACIFIST CENTRE

"THE use of atom bombs would have worse results on those who employed them than on their victims," declared Mrs. Pandit, Indian High Commissionerd to Gt. Britain, speaking at the recent fortieth birthday celebrations of Kingsley Hall, Bow, in London's East End

She recalled that Gandhi, a close personal friend of her family, had said: "We don't refuse to fight because of lack of weapons but because fighting degrades and demoralises those who engage in it," and that he had always insisted that India's struggle for freedom was for the sake of peoples not yet free, including the untouchables within her own borders.

Long before the 1914/18 war, Muriel and Doris Lester, daughters of a prosperous East London shipbuilder, had begun their efforts to brighten the lives of people living in the dingy and overcrowded back streets of East London. Nursery schools, experiments in graded Sunday schools, girls' and boys' clubs, adult education and women's meetings were held in a small house, and eventually a disused Church hall was obtained and converted in 1915 as the first Kingsley Hall. Right from the outset an internationalist spirit characterised the work, and thirteen years later—in 1928—the present beautifully designed and multi-purpose centre was opened.

Forty campaigning years

Muriel Lester herself was hostess at this reunion gathering, and her sister, Doris, who had been mainly responsible for the other Kingsley Hall at Dagenham, Essex, was also there to meet a great crowd of old members and friends.

Tribute was paid by speaker after speaker to the great tradition which Muriel and Doris Lester had created, and the audience lived again through the great campaigning issues of the last forty years: Kingsley Hall's great processions for women's rights; their clubs and work centres for the unemployed; the countless poster parades and other peace activities; the pioneer work for children; George Lansbury—neighbour and friend; Gandhi—spinning in his roof cell whilst preparing for the historic Round Table Conference; the campaign for Indian freedom; and, during the last war, the work for the abolition of night bombing and against food blockade, in which two of Kingsley Hall's closest friends, Corder Catchpool and Vera Brittain, had taken the lead.

Muriel Lester's personal crusade for peace has taken her round the world many times, as travelling secretary for the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. Although she has recently retired, her characteristic gaiety and purposefulness were as alive as ever.

In presenting his report of the previous year's work, the present warden, Bernard Eastaugh, deplored the tragic effects of conscription on young people, and indicated how it disrupted much that Kingsley Hall was trying to do. Under his leadership the Hall keeps alive those values of Christian service, tolerance and idealism to which it has witnessed so effectively over fifty years. H. F. M.

IPSWICH

"Objective Peace" demonstration

Saturday, March 19

3 p.m. Poster Parade from Friends Meeting House, Fonnereau Street.

4 p.m. Open-air meeting, Cornhill

Speakers: **Sybil Morrison, Rev. Cameron Newell, Stuart Morris.** Chairman: **Mrs. Lesley Lewis.**

BRAINS TRUST

at Friends Meeting House at 6.30 p.m.

(Peace Exhibition and Buffet from 5.30 p.m.)

Panel: **Cecil Barrett, Rev. John M. Vick, Sybil Morrison, Rev. Hampden Horne, Mrs. Lesley Lewis, Stuart Morris.** Question Master: **Rev. Cameron Newell.**

HELPERS WANTED

Details of travel from London (offers of cars wanted) from Peace Pledge Union, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

MOUNTING H-BOMB PROTESTS

● From page one

(ii) It is impossible to win a modern war without resorting to these weapons;

(iii) Pattern or area bombing, without atomic bombs, can be just as hideous. The Government's decision coincides with the tenth anniversary of the massacre of Dresden, when, in a single night, the Allies bombed and slaughtered a quarter of a million people. (The figure is that of the president of the International Red Cross.) Photographs of the bodies of the men women, and children stacked up in Dresden awaiting cremation on the streets present a picture as horrifying as that of Belsen. To win a modern war, one has to become as brutal and bestial as one's enemies.

It is clear, therefore, that the only choice is between pacifism and total war. And now that war has degenerated into the wilful slaughter of the innocent, we affirm the statement at the top of this letter that—so far as we are concerned—we must either be pacifists or give up our religion.

"Living in a dream world"

The Daily Herald, which gives little space to correspondence, published two letters of protest, one from H. W. Franklin, President of the National Union of Railwaymen 1951-53 and a former member of the Labour Party Executive, in which he wrote:

"What a commentary on the times we live in that our people in Parliament vie with the Conservatives in demanding bigger and more devastating bombs!

"Do they seriously believe that such a policy will win elections, or are they living in a dream world of the past, completely out of touch with the ordinary man in the street?

"To pillory pacifists and insist on rearming the Germans against their wishes hardly seems a good election manifesto."

It was on this day that the other newspapers prominently headlined the news that the Labour Party supported the decision to make the H-bomb. Shamefacedly, it seemed, the Herald printed the news at the bottom of the front page, hidden away in a paragraph at the end of a report of a meeting of the parliamentary Labour Party:

"A small minority objected to the inclusion in the motion (of censure on Government defence policy) of acceptance of the threat of the H-bomb as a deterrent until effective world disarmament had been achieved."

Dr. Donald Soper, speaking in the light of the announcement last month that the Bikini H-bomb had contaminated 7,000 square miles with its deadly effects, called for the complete renunciation of such weapons:

"I am driven to the conviction," he said, "that Christians who continue to support the manufacture and possible use of such weapons are traitors to their Lord.

"I appeal to Christians everywhere to sponsor a policy of renunciation. Let us unite the human race and, before it is too late, give an absolute 'No' to war and its latest horrible manifestation."

Mr. John Rowland, Pastor of Christ Church (Unitarian) Brighton, Sussex, declared, in a sermon:

"If the Churches were the leaders that they claim to be, they would state this is a weapon that we should not make, that we should not use, whatever the provocation.

"In this matter public opinion is ahead of the Churches, and ahead of the politicians."

PRISONERS

★ From page one

being tested; and no names of those who have been responsible for drawing up the report are appended.

There is no need to refer here to specific cases of terrible ill-treatment that are given in the report. The general Press has made reference to these and we have in fact heard about most of them before. There is no doubt that many of them occurred.

War is never without its atrocities and they happen among all the belligerents.

To be reminded that those who were fighting against the North Koreans were not innocent of them, it is only necessary to recall the dismissal of the Editor of Picture Post because he had decided to print an exposure by James Cameron of the treatment (by execution) of political prisoners held by South Korea.

It is not, however, with physical atrocities that the report is in the main concerned. It is the attempted "re-education" of prisoners to the acceptance of Communism and the endorsement of Cominform peace declarations.

The report may have its uses in this respect for it is obvious that in any future war short of the definitive atom-bomb war this conditioning of prisoners will be a feature on both sides.

It began in World War II and after, when the Allies began to operate on the re-education of German prisoners. Some of the work that was done then is now having to be undone in order to push through German rearmament.

It occurred equally on both sides in the Korean War, although the US authorities in the South used a different mechanism.

Making "Christians" on Koje

Peace News has on more than one occasion given information about this. An account of the "Christian" proselytising carried on in Koje that was given in Peace News for March 20, 1953, said:

"Why this missionary work should be undertaken by an army chaplain, and why his assistants should be attached to the Department of Army, is not explained.

"In twelve months a total of 4,261 Christians of protestant denominations among the prisoners had been increased to 15,602.

"The rate of Christian conversion, it will be perceived, can be much greater among prisoners of war than it is normally among those who have not their advantages.

"We are told too, that the activities of these Christian missionaries were handicapped by the hard core of Communist leadership among the prisoners and a general attitude of belligerency and rebellion. Nevertheless, conversion had a real meaning.

"'Each convert had to take an examination to become a catachumen. Each catachumen was required to pursue a course of study in Bible history covering a six-month period. He had to submit to a written three-hour examination, upon the satisfactory completion of which he was awarded a certificate and admitted to the rite of baptism.'

"By the time that the riots on the island had been broken, we are told, and Koje was 'under control', one out of ten of the prisoners had become Christians by these standards of selection."

Progress report

THE New Year has started well with an upward trend in Peace News circulation—and the spate of pacifist letters in some sections of the press makes it clear that we have an active year ahead. What hope, indeed, for the world if we pacifists are not putting out every effort we can to canalise todays fears and doubts into constructive channels? So come on readers! Let's get out of our ruts and lay about right and left with our propaganda. And what better than getting thousands of new readers for P.N.—making it our personal business to see that all the sympathisers we know buy a copy regularly, and putting in an hour or two a week looking for new readers.

No good sticking pins in the phone book!—its got to be personal. Let's see how some of you have gone about it lately.

● ● Starting from last week's special issue, it is a joy to report that over 500 extra copies were ordered for free distribution and special sales at meetings. Two methods for you then: order a dozen weekly for free distribution (special rate: 2s. 6d. post free), concentrate them for four weeks on a list of likely people; then invite them to give you a regular order. Method two; take a quota of PN to local public meetings: posters provided, supplies "on sale or return." Keep a watchful eye for announcements of political and humanitarian gatherings, and order your copies in good time.

An enthusiast at Crawley sends us a list of local addresses and payment to send a sample PN to each. Whilst not as effective as a personal approach we are always delighted to do your mailing. We send an introductory letter to each recipient.

Sales through our energetic US office increased by nearly 140 per cent. last year. Britons! You don't want to compete with the US in the arms race? All right, let's knock 'em cold in the sprint for peace. H. F. M.

Circulation last week. Home edition, 10,000. Air Express, 1,400.

Bishop of Johannesburg's meeting raised £2,300

A COLONIAL OFFICE observer and writer described the Bishop of Johannesburg's Central Hall Meeting in London last week as the modern equivalent of the historic Exeter Hall meeting in the campaign for the abolition of slavery.

The great anti-slavery campaign never ceased until the cause was won. So, in connection with the irresponsible and immoral government of South Africa, the present movement aims at freedom for the African people from white domination and oppression.

The Central Hall was filled with over 3,300 people and an overflow meeting organised on the worst snowy night of the winter. The vigorous appeal for a collection produced £2,300.

The Bishop described the clearance of native Africans from the Western Areas of Johannesburg as "legalised theft," and one of "the most flagrant examples of injustice to be found in S. Africa at the present time."

The Central Hall meeting is the beginning of a series of meetings to be addressed by Bishop Reeves throughout Great Britain and its success will inspire all lovers of freedom from oppression and injustice to work with still more devotion to their cause.

PEACE YEAR BOOK

1955

An invaluable guide to world affairs, with comprehensive directories of the British and foreign peace movements, United Nations and governmental international organisations, bibliographies of books and periodicals, armament statistics, war casualties, etc.

1s. 6d. (postage **2d.**)

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

29, Gt. James St., London, W.C.1

CONWAY MEMORIAL LECTURE

"Ethics in the Atomic Age"

LORD BOYD ORR

D.S.O., M.D., F.R.S.

Friday, 11th March, 7.30 pm.

Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., W.C.1

Admission free Chairman: Lord Horder

H-BOMB PROTEST MEETING

Friends House

EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.1

THURSDAY, MARCH 10th

7.30 p.m.

Speakers:

VERA BRITTAIN
JOHN HOYLAND
EMRYS HUGHES M.P.
VICTOR YATES M.P.
ALEX COMFORT
Rev. CLAUD COLTMAN
Canon T. B. SCRUTTON

Chairman:

SYBIL MORRISON

Organised by the Standing Joint Pacifist Committee, Peace Pledge Union, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Society of Friends Peace Committee, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

Printed by The W. F. Clifford Printing Co. Ltd. (T.U.), 12g Manor Road, N.16.